

Syllabus

Course Description

Course Title	Regional Development and Sustainability
Course Code	31032
Course Title Additional	
Scientific-Disciplinary Sector	
Language	English
Degree Course	Master in Tourism Management
Other Degree Courses (Loaned)	
Lecturers	<p>Prof. Dr. Elisabeth Gsottbauer, Elisabeth.Gsottbauer@unibz.it https://www.unibz.it/en/faculties/economics-management/academic-staff/person/36371</p> <p>dr. Nicola Campigotto, Nicola.Campigotto@unibz.it</p>
Teaching Assistant	
Semester	All semesters
Course Year/s	1
CP	12
Teaching Hours	72 (36 M-1 + 36 M-2)
Lab Hours	12 only M-1
Individual Study Hours	-
Planned Office Hours	36 (18 M-1 + 18 M-2)
Contents Summary	<p>M-1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This module provides a solid foundation in regional and environmental economics, covering key topics such as location decisions, infrastructure, regional disparities, and environmental policy. • Students learn to apply formal economic models and analyze real-world location and environmental challenges. • The course combines theoretical modeling with practical case studies and policy applications.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The main goal is to develop analytical thinking skills and the ability to formulate evidence-based policy recommendations. <p>M-2</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This module introduces students to sustainable mobility, with a focus on behavioral science approaches to understanding and changing travel behavior. • It covers a range of policy instruments, from informational tools and nudging to pricing strategies like road pricing. • A strong emphasis is placed on impact evaluation methods, especially experimental designs, to assess policy effects. • The aim is to equip students with the ability to critically assess the interactions between technology, behavior, and policy in the transport sector.
Course Topics	<p>Module 1:</p> <p>This course provides an applied introduction to modern regional economics. It focuses on the determinants of the attractiveness of a territory and will be divided into two parts. An initial part will deal with classical regional economics, while a second part will deal with environmental economics. The first part will introduce students to the determinants of firms' and people's location decisions as well as on the principles of urban economics. It will look at the role of infrastructures and at place-based policies. The second part will provide for core concepts of environmental economics with special emphasis on policy. To this purpose, it will start with the economic theory of environmental policy. Based on the theory of externalities, it will analyze instruments for environmental policy from an economic point-of-view. It will then introduce topics of behavioral environmental economics.</p> <p>The course is aimed at understanding how formal models can be used to analyze real-world situations. Theoretical analyses are complemented with empirical evidence, case studies, and discussions of implications for environmental policies.</p> <p>Students acquire a broad knowledge in the field of regional and environmental economics and develop an economic intuition by means of examples and applications. More precisely, they will be provided with:</p>

- the toolkit to independently deepen their knowledge in regional and environmental economics and understand advanced research;
- the ability to apply regional and environmental economic theory in research and practice.

Students will understand, among others, how to formulate and solve problems in regional and environmental economics using advanced economic theory. To address these questions adequately, students learn to apply mathematical tools and game theory, such as optimization methods. Most importantly, students will not only be able to solve these models analytically, but also understand the intuition at work.

Module 2:

This course on sustainable transport and behavior change provides a comprehensive exploration of the behavioral foundations that underlie transportation systems and policies. Students will be introduced to a wide range of topics, from the utilization of new technology and measurement instruments to sense travel behavior, to the integration of behavioral science in understanding travel patterns.

The course adopts an interdisciplinary approach by introducing various frameworks for explaining and changing travel behavior. By contrasting classic economic theory with behavioral economics and social psychology, students will gain a holistic understanding of the factors influencing travel behavior. The course also introduces a spectrum of public policy instruments for positively influencing behavior, ranging from information and changing perceptions to pricing strategies such as road pricing. Ultimately, the course will provide students with methodological tools to critically evaluate the impact of policy interventions on behaviour through rigorous experimental methods.

Through critical engagement with various models of human behavior and decision-making, students will develop expertise in analytical thinking, enabling them to comprehend individual travel behavior.

The emphasis on impact evaluation and experimental research methods will cultivate problem-solving skills, supporting students to address policy challenges in the realm of sustainable transportation.

Keywords	regional economics, environmental policy, mobility, behavioral science, impact evaluation
Recommended Prerequisites	
Propaedeutic Courses	
Teaching Format	The modules use a mix of interactive lectures, case-based discussions, and hands-on exercises with real-world data. Students also work in groups on applied projects linking theory to practice.
Mandatory Attendance	-
Specific Educational Objectives and Learning Outcomes	<p>Knowledge and understanding</p> <p>The student acquires the competence to apply knowledge and understanding about the role of tourism in the economic development of communities, regions and nations.</p> <p>The student acquires the ability to identify and analyse tourism-induced environmental and social problems and to understand their interdependencies and contexts, applying theories and methods and developing explanatory approaches.</p> <p>Ability to apply knowledge and understanding</p> <p>The student acquires specific skills in spatial planning and economic models related to tourism development.</p> <p>The student acquires mastery in the planning of mobility and digitalisation systems within the regional economy.</p> <p>The student also acquires the ability to read and understand economic analyses.</p> <p>The contextual and multidisciplinary approach enables students to holistically consider operational, sectoral, economic and social requirements and environmental problems in decision-making processes.</p> <p>Areas of knowledge application include the micro, meso and macro levels and include the acquisition of skills necessary for policy advice and business strategy development.</p> <p>"In addition, there are skills that have their basis in behavioural economics, decision theory and consumer behaviour research, skills that are particularly important in empirical analysis, as well as in ex-ante forecasting and scenarios in the context of future-oriented questions."</p> <p>The skills developed can be applied in regional, national and international contexts.</p> <p>The development and promotion of competences also include the</p>

	<p>ability to present complex and socially relevant issues and results in a precise and coherent manner, but in a comprehensible and target-group oriented manner</p> <p>Autonomy of judgement acquire the ability to select data and use appropriate information to describe an issue concerning the management of tourism businesses as well as tourism associations and destinations acquire the ability to relate models and empirical evidence in the study of tourism businesses, tourism associations, consortia and destinations</p> <p>Communication skills The Master's degree graduate will be able to communicate effectively in oral and written form the specialised content of the individual disciplines, using different registers depending on the recipients and the communicative and didactic purposes, and to evaluate the formative effects of his/her communication. Written and oral communication skills are particularly developed in the training activities carried out for the preparation of the Master's thesis, in the discussion of business cases and in interactive lectures involving group discussions and the comparison of individual analyses.</p> <p>Learning skills to identify thematic connections and to establish relationships between different cases and contexts of analysis to frame a new problem systematically and generate appropriate taxonomies. to develop general models from the phenomena studied.</p>
Specific Educational Objectives and Learning Outcomes (additional info.)	
Assessment	<p>M1: Regional Economics and Development: Grading is 100% based on a final written exam. Students are required to answer open questions. Assessment is the same for both attending and non-attending students.</p>

	<p>M2: Sustainable Mobility:</p> <p>Attending students:</p> <p>Grading is based on a final exam containing open questions which makes up 60%. Students in addition will present a real-life case assignment which makes up for 40% of the final grade. The case study report needs to be handed in 3 weeks before the written exam, at the latest.</p> <p>Non-attending students:</p> <p>Non attending students will be assessed through a final exam test (100%) that covers all course materials.</p>
Evaluation Criteria	Exam questions are graded on correctness, clarity, and analytical depth. Group projects are evaluated based on originality, demonstrated understanding of concepts, and the ability to link theory to real-world policy applications.
Required Readings	<p>M1: Regional Economics and Development:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Capello, R: Regional Economics, Routledge, 2015 - Sterner, T., & Coria, J. (2013). Policy instruments for environmental and natural resource management. Routledge. - Perman, R. (2003). Natural resource and environmental economics. Pearson Education. <p>M2: Sustainable Mobility:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Hutton, B. (2013). Planning sustainable transport. Routledge. - Thaler, Richard H., and Cass R. Sunstein. Nudge: Improving decisions about health, wealth, and happiness. Yale University Press, 2008
Supplementary Readings	
Further Information	
Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)	Climate action, Sustainable cities and communities

Course Module

Course Constituent Title	M-1 - Regional Economics and Development
Course Code	31032A
Scientific-Disciplinary Sector	SECS-P/01

Language	English
Lecturers	dr. Nicola Campigotto, Nicola.Campigotto@unibz.it
Teaching Assistant	
Semester	
CP	6
Responsible Lecturer	
Teaching Hours	36
Lab Hours	12
Individual Study Hours	-
Planned Office Hours	18
Contents Summary	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This module provides a solid foundation in regional and environmental economics, covering key topics such as location decisions, infrastructure, regional disparities, and environmental policy. • Students learn to apply formal economic models and analyze real-world location and environmental challenges. • The course combines theoretical modeling with practical case studies and policy applications. • The main goal is to develop analytical thinking skills and the ability to formulate evidence-based policy recommendations.
Course Topics	<p>This course provides an applied introduction to modern regional economics. It focuses on the determinants of the attractiveness of a territory and will be divided into two parts. An initial part will deal with classical regional economics, while a second part will deal with environmental economics. The first part will introduce students to the determinants of firms' and people's location decisions as well as on the principles of urban economics. It will look at the role of infrastructures and at place-based policies. The second part will provide for core concepts of environmental economics with special emphasis on policy. To this purpose, the course will start with the economic theory of environmental policy. Based on the theory of externalities, it will analyze instruments for environmental policy from an economic point-of-view. It will then introduce topics of behavioral environmental economics.</p> <p>The course is aimed at understanding how formal models can be</p>

	used to analyze real-world situations. Theoretical analyses are complemented with empirical evidence, case studies, and discussions of implications for environmental policies.
Teaching Format	Interactive lectures, case-based discussions, and hands-on exercises.
Required Readings	<p>Capello, R. (2015), Regional Economics, Routledge</p> <p>Sterner, T. and Coria, J. (2013), Policy instruments for environmental and natural resource management, Routledge</p> <p>Perman, R. (2003), Natural resource and environmental economics, Pearson Education</p> <p>OECD (2022), The Contribution of Migration to Regional Development, OECD Regional Development Studies</p>
Supplementary Readings	

Course Module

Course Constituent Title	M-2 - Sustainable Mobility
Course Code	31032B
Scientific-Disciplinary Sector	SECS-P/06
Language	English
Lecturers	<p>Prof. Dr. Elisabeth Gsottbauer, Elisabeth.Gsottbauer@unibz.it https://www.unibz.it/en/faculties/economics-management/academic-staff/person/36371</p>
Teaching Assistant	
Semester	
CP	6
Responsible Lecturer	
Teaching Hours	36
Lab Hours	-
Individual Study Hours	-

Planned Office Hours	18
Contents Summary	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This module introduces students to sustainable mobility, with a focus on behavioral science approaches to understanding and changing travel behavior. • It covers a range of policy instruments, from informational tools and nudging to pricing strategies like road pricing. • A strong emphasis is placed on impact evaluation methods, especially experimental designs, to assess policy effects. • The aim is to equip students with the ability to critically assess the interactions between technology, behavior, and policy in the transport sector.
Course Topics	
Teaching Format	Interactive lectures and group work.
Required Readings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Hutton, B. (2013). Planning sustainable transport. Routledge. - Thaler, Richard H., and Cass R. Sunstein. Nudge: Improving decisions about health, wealth, and happiness. Yale University Press, 2008
Supplementary Readings	